

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0907

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE
AND TRANSPORTATION
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

February 8, 2010

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
506 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

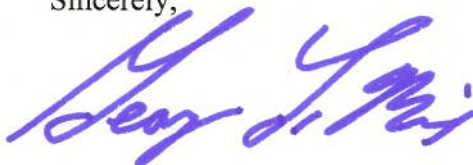
Dear Chairman Rockefeller,

Given the massive recalls announced by Toyota Motor Corporation regarding problems stemming from the propensity of the accelerator pedals to stick and braking problems with the Prius, I believe that it is incumbent upon our committee to hold a full hearing with Yoshi Inaba, president and chief operating officer of Toyota Motor North America and other members of Toyota's leadership team to determine the extent of the problem and what actions are being taken to address the situation.

The American public needs to know the level of risk associated with operating affected vehicles, and Congress needs to know whether federal regulators have fulfilled their proper roles. This is a matter of public safety. There is a lot of missing information right now about who knew what and when and we ought to expose that information to the public. Conflicting reports and apparent confusion on the part of some federal officials have left many drivers in Florida and across the country increasingly concerned about the safety of their vehicles. In order to alleviate these concerns, I believe our Committee needs to hold a hearing promptly to determine the danger posed to drivers by these defects, when the problems were first detected, what actions the company and federal regulators took once being alerted to the problems, and how we can ensure that proper safeguards are in place to avoid such events in the future.

I look forward to working with you and other members of our committee to address these concerns and conducting a thorough investigation of the events that led up to these recalls. Again, I would urge you to hold a full hearing on this issue as soon as possible. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



George S. LeMieux
United States Senator